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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred House bill No. 83, to *repeal* so much of section 2nd of article 4th of the amended constitution of North-Carolina as prohibits persons of the Jewish or Israelitish faith from holding offices of profit or trust in the State, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit thereon, the following

## REPORT.

The Committee are of opinion that the principle on which the bill is founded, is correct. No person should be proscribed or placed under any civil disabilities on account of religious faith. *Religion* is a matter which concerns us all as individuals. It is not the proper subject of the cognizance of civil tribunals. God alone, the maker and searcher of hearts, has the right to judge an intelligent and accountable creature, on account of the religious faith by which such creature is governed. When government assumes the right to interpose in this behalf, it usurps the prerogative of the Almighty, and violates the most sacred privilege of man. The provision of the constitution proposed to be abrogated by the bill, was inserted at a period when the principles of religious liberty were very imperfectly understood in North-Carolina. It is a relic of an age of bigotry and intolerance—unfit to be associated in our fundamental law, with the enlightened principles of republican government, which constitute the basis of our institutions.